

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Church starts mission at neighborhood 'crack house'

By Greg Warner

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. (BP) — Imagine the surprise of local residents when they found out the "crack house" down the street that harbored neighborhood drug users belonged to a church.

Abandoned by its owner for two years, the small, concrete-block house in Boynton Beach, Fla., had become the target of vandals and a haven for crack and cocaine users who hid inside its dilapidated walls.

Finally, when the city of Boynton Beach cited the church last year for abandoning the property, the absentee landlord knew it was time to take action.

"We would have been judged by God if we hadn't done something," said Richard Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church of nearby Lantana.

Now Walker and other area Baptists are turning the former crack house into a mission, the first black Southern Baptist congregation in Palm Lake Baptist Association.

Several years ago, First Baptist member who died, willed a small

house to the church. The house, which had been the home of the member's gardener, was several miles from the church in the predominantly black community of Cherry Hills, a run-down neighborhood of Boynton Beach with a reputation for its drug traffic.

At first, the predominantly white Lantana church saw little use for the house and planned to sell it.

After the church was cited by the city, First Baptist members began to see the house as an outreach opportunity "dropped down from heaven," Walker recalled. "We thought maybe the Lord wanted us to start a mission over there," he said, noting Cherry Hills had only one small church serving its 5,000 residents.

The 25-year-old Lantana church never had started a mission before. But its new pastor, who had been a missionary to Brazil, was more experienced.

Church members committed to raise \$6,900 to renovate the house, the same amount they were spending on a new steeple. The sentiment of the

members, Walker said, was "if we can put money into a steeple for ourselves, we can do something for these people."

But the most critical need, Walker said, was to find a pastor willing to move to Cherry Hills.

With the help of local Baptist mission leaders, they found Parker Williams, a maintenance worker and ordained minister living 40 miles south in the Hallandale community of Fort Lauderdale.

The Williamses had hoped to move into the house last year, but repairs have not been completed. Damage was so extensive that much of the interior had to be gutted.

But the delays have not kept Williams from getting started. He canvassed the neighborhood for prospective members for a Sunday school, which began meeting in the partially completed house last August.

About a dozen people now attend the Sunday school each week. Most are young people, but some adults are beginning to come, Williams said. During the first month, two people were baptized in the Cherry Hills community swimming pool. Another was baptized in January.

Williams has started going to community meetings in Cherry Hills to offer his help to residents who want to clean up the neighborhood and its image. He said the mission has been well received by residents, including members of other churches: "They say, 'The more, the merrier.'"

The mission is "holding its own," but living 40 miles away makes his ministry more difficult, Williams said. He and his wife make the drive about four times a week for Sunday school, a Tuesday night Bible study, Wednesday night prayer service and some Saturdays to visit and work.

But Williams, who now works as a youth counselor for an agency near Fort Lauderdale, said he needs more time on the field to make a real impact. The mission is not financially able to hire him full-time, however, so First Baptist of Lantana is looking for another congregation to help sponsor the work.

Meanwhile Williams continues to commute. He admitted he might be able to find a church to serve that's closer to home. But he's convinced starting a church in Cherry Hills is more important because "there are plenty of churches around here," he said from his Hallandale home.

So he spends what time he can meeting residents and sharing Christ door-to-door around the Cherry Hills neighborhood. "That's what's going to make a difference," he said.

Pray that they may believe

Southern Baptists across America have set aside next week, March 5-11, as a week of earnest prayer for home missions. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is taken during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, which provides nearly half of the budget of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. This year's goal is \$39 million. (HMB photo by Richard Shock)

At Southwestern, 40 years

Prof provides New Testament model

By Chip Alford

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Although J.W. MacGorman started teaching at Southwestern Seminary 40 years ago last fall, his most valuable lesson came while he was confined to a hospital bed.

MacGorman, distinguished professor of New Testament at Southwestern, was diagnosed as having bronchiectasis, an enlargement of the bronchial tubes, during his freshman year at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He was 18 years old.

He lost down to 106 lbs. "and the doctors didn't expect me to live," MacGorman recalled. "I knew I was critically ill, and I was afraid to die."

MacGorman's father was a Baptist pastor. One day, without asking, he left a Bible beside his son's hospital bed. Longing for comfort, MacGorman read the Scriptures "day-in and day-out" searching for answers to life-long questions about Christianity. One day as he read and prayed, he became aware of a "living and loving presence" in the room with him.

"I committed myself to Christ right there," he said. "That was the complete turning point of my life. I realized that Christ was the Lord of life and death."

MacGorman remained hospitalized

almost two years after his life-changing experience. When his disease was termed inoperable, physicians suggested he move to the Southwest because of the area's warmer, drier climate.

He arrived in Austin, Texas, in 1941 with \$100 he had borrowed from a deacon in his father's church. He got a job with the Texas Highway Department as an attendant at a roadside information station in the Texas Panhandle.

With the money he earned from that job, he enrolled at the University of Texas and earned a bachelor's degree in 1945. During his college years, he was pastor of a rural church near Austin. His decision to enter the pastorate, though, was made with some reservation.

"My dread of the gospel ministry was that I couldn't speak," said MacGorman, who admitted to taking zeroes in his high school English class rather than give speeches. "I was so intimidated of speaking in front of others, I became convinced that I couldn't do it. But I learned that the Lord will never give you an assignment without giving you the strength and the resources to accomplish it."

After college, MacGorman enrolled at Southwestern and earned

bachelor's and doctor's degrees in theology. At Southwestern, he met and married his wife, Ruth, a native Texan. "She made Texas home for me," said MacGorman, a native of Nova Scotia, Canada.

MacGorman began his teaching career at the seminary in 1948. Again, it was a career decision he made with misgivings.

"I had a heart for global evangelism, but my health prevented me from that. So my vision was to be pastor of a mission-minded church," MacGorman said. "But once I started teaching, God gave me such a sense of his approval. I knew I'd made the right choice."

MacGorman's health hasn't stopped him from accepting teaching assignments and leading Bible studies around the world, from West Africa to Japan, and Australia to Europe. "That was God's yes behind the no to foreign missions," he said.

He also has written several Bible commentaries, two January Bible studies for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and a book titled "The Gifts of the Spirit."

At 68, MacGorman said he has no immediate plans to retire.

"I just love to be in the game. The sidelines offer no appeal to me."

Chip Alford writes for Southwestern.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
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Carolyn and Joe

Carolyn Weatherford, 59, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, announced Feb. 17 she is retiring and will marry a Southern Baptist pastor. Her fiancé is James Joseph "Joe" Crumpler Sr., 61, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a former president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. The wedding will be at noon on Aug. 19 at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., where Weatherford is a member. The reception will be held at the national WMU headquarters building on the outskirts of Birmingham. The announcement was timed to coincide with Focus on WMU Week, on the SBC calendar, which also was the week of Valentine's Day.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

1989's gambling bills

Gambling bills passed off the scene during this year's legislative session, and we can be grateful to those legislators who helped to make this a reality.

The information being presented on this page is for the purpose of showing Mississippi Baptists how their legislators voted on several gambling issues. It would be well to pen a thank you note to those who voted as the note writer could have wished.

HCR 95 in the House of Representatives would have established a public vote to determine whether or not the constitutional restriction against a state lottery would have been lifted. To have a lottery in Mississippi would require a constitutional amendment. It would have taken 76 votes for HCR to pass. It got only 55 votes with 64 voting in opposition.

Those voting in favor were Alford, Bounds, Buckley, Buelow, Burdine, Capps, Clarke, Compretta, Diaz, Ellerby, Ellis, Ely, Endris, Endt, Flaggs, Fortenberry, Fredericks, George, D. L. Green (96), J. D. Green (33), Grisham, Guice, Haxton, Hebert, Henderson, Henry, Hines, Holland, Jackson, Jones, King, Lancaster, Malone, McIngvale, Merideth, Peranich, Perry, Poindexter, Reeves, W. Robinson (63), Ryan, Scott, Short, Simpson, Stevens, Thomas, Underwood, Van Slyke, Vecchio, A. Walker (41), Walman, Watson, Wilkerson, Young, and the Speaker (Ford).

Those voting in opposition were Anderson, Bowles, Britt, Brown, Bryan, Calhoun, E. C. Clark (79), Cole, Comans, Dabbs, Denny, Ditto, Ellington, Foster, Frazier, Furniss, Grist, Halbrook, Hanson, Holston, Horne, Lee, Livingston, Maples, McCoy, McCrory, McElwain, McMillan, Mills, Moak, Moody, Morris, Moss, Netherland, Nettles, Nipper, Parker, Pennebaker, Reynolds, D. Robinson (20), Rogers, Ross, Savage, Scarborough, Schoby, E. H. Scott (17), Sheppard, C. Simmons (37), M. Simmons (100), Singletary, Staples, Stribley,

Stringer, Taylor, Townsend, Tyrone, Vince, Wadkins, Waldrup, B. Walker (77), Warren, Weissinger, Wheeler, and Woods.

Not voting were Blackmon, R. G. Clark (47), and Williams.

Senate Bill 2014 would have established a gaming commission. With 30 votes needed to pass, it was defeated by a vote of 26 in opposition and 23 in favor.

Those voting in favor of SB 2014 were Anderson, Benjamin, Bilbo, Briggs, Canon, Crook, Dearing, Deweese, Gollott, Hall, Harden, Harper, Huggins, Mohamed, Montgomery, Monty, Rayborn, Sledge, Stogner, Taylor, Welch, White, and Woodfield.

Those voting in opposition to SB 2014 were Bean, Blanton, Bond, Bryan, Burkes, Graham, Guerieri, Hale, Harpole, Harvey, Heflin, Jordan, Keeton, Mills, Morgan, Musgrove, Posey, Renick, Rosenblatt, Scoper, Smith, Tate, Thames, Usey, Wicker, and Williams.

Not voting were Gordon, Lambert, and Miller.

SB 2570 would have legalized pari-mutuel gambling on greyhound racing. It died by a vote of 35 against and 16 in favor.

Those voting in favor of SB 2570 were Anderson, Bilbo, Briggs, Crook, Dearing, Deweese, Gollott, Hall, Harden, Harper, Mohamed, Montgomery, Monty, Sledge, Taylor, and Woodfield.

Voting in opposition to SB 2570 were Bean, Benjamin, Blanton, Bond, Bryan, Burkes, Gordon, Graham, Guerieri, Hale, Harpole, Harvey, Heflin, Huggins, Jordan, Keeton, Lambert, Miller, Mills, Morgan, Musgrove, Posey, Rayborn, Renick, Rosenblatt, Scoper, Smith, Stogner, Tate, Thames, Usey, Welch, White, Wicker, and Williams.

Not voting was Canon.

Before the failure of SB 2570, an amendment was adopted that changed it from a revenue bill to a general

bill. This was done in spite of the fact that it came from the committee to the floor as a revenue bill and the reason for proposing greyhound racing in the state was to claim that it would generate revenue. The vote to amend the bill passed by 26 to 24. This means that 10 voted for the amendment who voted against the bill after it was amended. Those 10 were Benjamin, Harpole, Jordan, Lambert, Posey, Rayborn, Smith, Stogner, Welch, and White. In addition, Huggins did not vote on the amendment and voted against the bill, which, with the other 10 changes, changed the 24 "Nays" votes on the amendment to 35 "Yays" on the bill. Canon did not vote either time.

Revenue bills require a 60 percent vote. General bills require only a majority.

SB 2617 would have established the mechanism for running a state lottery. The vote was 25 to 24 in favor of the bill; but, because it was a revenue bill, it needed 30 votes. Following the vote, Lt. Gov. Brad Dye was asked to rule on whether or not the bill was a revenue bill. According to observers, it took five hours of deliberation; but he finally ruled it a revenue bill, meaning that it had lost.

Those voting in favor of SB 2617 were Anderson, Bilbo, Briggs, Crook, Dearing, Deweese, Gollott, Hale, Hall, Harden, Harper, Huggins, Jordan, Lambert, Mills, Mohamed, Montgomery, Monty, Rayborn, Sledge, Stogner, Taylor, Usey, White, and Woodfield.

Those voting against SB 2617 were Bean, Blanton, Bond, Bryan, Burkes, Canon, Graham, Guerieri, Harpole, Harvey, Heflin, Keeton, Miller, Morgan, Musgrove, Renick, Rosenblatt, Scoper, Smith, Tate, Thames, Welch, Wicker, and Williams.

Benjamin, Gordon, and Posey did not vote.

The vote above was taken on Feb. 9 and was the result of a motion to (Continued on page 6)

SPREADING THE BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS

They won't
order a second steak...
but they can and will order a
second drink!

ABOVE IS AN ACTUAL HEADLINE PUSHING SALES
TAKEN FROM A LIQUOR TRADE JOURNAL.

THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY OF RETAILER OUTLETS ESTIMATES ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AT \$62 BILLION IN ONE YEAR - FROM HEALTH AND FITNESS NEWS SERVICE

THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE INDUSTRY
STANDS CONDEMNED

FOR THEIR PART IN
KILLING AMERICA'S FAMILY MEMBERS.

EACH YEAR OVER 23,000 HIGHWAY DEATHS ARE ALCOHOL-RELATED.

A son of Mississippi

A Mississippian has been nominated by Southeastern Seminary President Lewis Drummond to be academic vice-president and dean of the faculty at the seminary. Because of that he has been pulled into the "conservative" versus "moderate" flap in which the Southern Baptist Convention has been embroiled since 1979.

He is L. Russ Bush III, a native of Columbia, Miss., and son of the pastor of Main Street Church in Hattiesburg, Russell Bush Jr.

Russ Bush became controversial because the faculty at the seminary is opposing his election. In stating its opposition to Bush, the faculty cited his lack of administrative experience, which is accurate, and the fact that the faculty had been left out of the process, which also is accurate.

According to all sources which have

come to light to this point, Bush's credentials are of high quality. He is conservative in this theology, but so are 99 percent of Southern Baptists. It is true that he has not been on an administrative staff, but he has been a professor at Southwestern Seminary for 16 years. He was on the faculty before the beginning of the controversy, and he has remained there through the intervening years. He has master's and doctor's degrees from Southwestern and a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College.

It is true that before the change in conditions at Southeastern Seminary the faculty was involved in such processes as the selection of a faculty dean. This discussion is not to question the rightness or wrongness of such a procedure. It is to say that the nomination of Bush at this time has (Continued on page 6)

Guest opinion . . .

What a relief to learn that women have souls

By Polly McNabb

Evidently our convention is moving in the right direction. Our moral concerns agency has just elected a new director, and women have a lot to rejoice about. He believes that women have souls. I was concerned about that one, but now I have it in black and white. Women do have souls. I do hope he doesn't get in trouble admitting that.

I was also interested in a few other things said in his "position" papers, even though I'll admit I am somewhat in the dark about some of the things he said. That part about "the woman is to be in subordination to the man in the structure of the church as an organized body and in the family as

a team in the household."

It's that subordination and team bit that bothers me. I thought a team was where you pull together. I've had a little experience with teams in my day, so I suppose that's what makes it so difficult for me to understand this kind of thinking.

I spent most of my growing-up summers on the farm, and I just loved to visit my cousin because I knew I would get to drive his team, ole Molly and Sparky. I felt I was walking in tall timber when I had the reins of a good team in my hands.

Now Molly believed in subordination, too. You would have to call her a true conservative in the strictest

sense of the word. She really believed that her team mate, Sparky, should take the lead, especially when it was a heavy load they were pulling. But seems every time she tried to live by her convictions, she got in trouble. She would try to pull back and let her "stronger" mate take the lead, (after all, isn't that what subordination is all about?) and then my cousin would wallop her and make her get back in line. He had the mistaken notion that a team should work side by side, so it was poor Molly who paid a high price for her convictions.

And there's another belief this new man stated that is hard for me to understand. After he acknowledged

that men and women "have eternal souls," he said, "They both have the same potential to respond to God." Had he said "They both have potential to respond to God" I might be able to understand it, but in my dictionary the word "same" means "being the very one; identical; alike in kind, quality, amount or degree," etc.

Our new CLC leader says also that he believes "women should receive equal pay for equal work and are not prohibited from top positions in education, government, business, corporations, finance, politics, or other work." Now if I interpret that correctly, he means that a woman could be president of the United States, head of

the world bank, secretary general of the United Nations, or anything else; but in the church and in the home she's to be subordinate to men.

Tut, tut. The more I read the more confused I get. I do wish all these subordinate-conscious men in our convention could get all of us women straightened out so we could get on with the job we've been playing at for the last 10 years.

And if we don't get back to basics soon, I fear we may look up in the sky some day and see in large letters "Southern Baptist Convention" with a huge "Ichabod" written across it.

Polly McNabb is associate editor of The California Southern Baptist.

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"Find Us Faithful" theme of WMU annual meeting

Members of WMU organizations in Mississippi will head north in March for the first annual meeting of the Second Century!

Colonial Hills Church, in Southaven, will host this convention on March 20-21, from 2 p.m. on Monday until 3:30 on Tuesday. There will be four sessions of the meeting, with banquets for Baptist Young Women and Baptist Nursing Fellowship on Monday evening.

Speakers who will be featured include Carolyn Weatherford, executive

director of WMU, SBC; Keith Parks, President of the Foreign Mission Board; Mrs. Larry Lewis, wife of the president of the Home Mission Board; James Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission; and Guy Henderson, evangelism director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In addition, furloughing foreign missionaries will talk about their work. Music will be directed by Mrs. Tullos Jones of Laurel.

Children and youths are invited to attend Monday night when they'll

have an opportunity to meet the missionaries in an informal setting. Tuesday morning breakfast dialogues with missionaries will be featured.

Special guests during the two-day meet will be retiring executive director, Miss. Baptist Convention Board, Earl Kelly, and Mrs. Kelly.

Presiding over all the sessions will be Mrs. James Fancher, Monticello, state WMU president.

For additional information, contact the WMU office, 968-3800.



Parks



Smith



Weatherford



Lewis

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 2, 1989

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Executive Committee approves Religious Liberty Commission

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — Creation of a new Religious Liberty Commission has been approved by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee on a 42-27 secret ballot vote.

The vote came during the Feb. 20-22 meeting of the 76-member Executive Committee after a seven-member study committee recommended creating the new entity as "an alternative to accomplish the program and funding" of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The action, however, specifies that the SBC "would continue its relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs through the Religious Liberty Commission."

In order to create a new entity, messengers to two consecutive SBC annual meetings will be required to approve the action by majority votes.

Thus, messengers to both the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., and the 1990 annual meeting in New Orleans must give their assent.

Members of the Executive Committee approved a package that includes the recommendation to create the new agency, along with a charter, program statement, and preliminary bylaws.

Under the proposal, messengers to the Las Vegas convention will be asked to approve creation of the new entity. Then, messengers to the New Orleans annual meeting will be asked

to vote on the matter again, and also ballot on a charter, program statement, funding, and election of 27 trustees to the new organization.

New Orleans messengers also will be asked to dissolve the 18-member Public Affairs Committee, a standing committee through which the SBC relates to the BJCPA.

All of the votes to create and organize the new commission will be simple majorities; only the vote to dissolve the PAC will require a two-thirds majority.

Members of the Executive Committee — and messengers to the annual meetings — were presented the total

(Continued on page 5)

MC would ask for more money to support Clarke

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles said in February that if the Education Commission chooses not to revert to an earlier funding formula that included Clarke College, MC will return to the 1989 Mississippi Baptist Convention for more money for Clarke.

Nobles told this to commission members during their February meeting at MC, Feb. 16-17. He said he thought the \$200,000 line item approved at the 1988 convention would ultimately clear up the probationary status placed on Clarke by its academic accrediting agency, and that a post-convention recommendation by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is not as binding as the earlier convention vote for special Clarke funding.

In late November the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board recommended to MC trustees that unless Clarke enrollment rises to 300 by this coming fall, they should close Clarke and dispose of the property.

Said Nobles of the MBCB recommendation, "We don't feel as bound by the convention board as by the convention." Nobles referred to the two-to-one vote to give the \$200,000 line item to MC to spend on Clarke. He said the trustees would be talking about the convention action at their March meeting but that he doesn't "believe there is any sentiment on the board for any substantial changes."

Nobles said the "bottom line" concerning Clarke's relationship to MC is that all money for Clarke is to come from tuition, endowment, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The exact wording of the merger agreement concerning liabilities is that "All obligations of Clarke College now existing, valid claims against Clarke College arising in the future, and valid claims and costs that might arise out of the process of merger of

Clarke College and Mississippi College will be met from the assets of Clarke College, the Clarke College endowment, or the Mississippi Baptist Convention."

Asked by Commission Chairman William Stewart when the full merger will ultimately take place, Nobles said that "in every legal sense it has been merged," but he reiterated that MC

(Continued on page 5)

Team members still needed for Japan

Team members are still needed for the Japan-Mississippi partnership evangelistic campaign, according to Guy Henderson, evangelism director for Mississippi Baptists.

The campaign will be held in two stages, Oct. 2 to 16 and Oct. 17 to 31. The hope is to have 40 Mississippi Baptist churches forming partnerships with 40 Japanese Baptist churches, Henderson said. Three or four team members are desired for each Japanese church, including a preacher and a performing musician rather than a music director. The other one or two team members would be lay witnesses.

This evangelistic effort is planned to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Baptist work in Japan. Mississippi was asked by the Foreign Mission Board to undertake the endeavor.

The first partnership orientation will be March 2 at Camp Garaywa near Clinton. The session will be from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Those who are considering participation are invited to attend, Henderson noted.

Foreign Board appoints two Mississippi couples

Two couples with Mississippi connections were among 20 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, Feb. 14 at New Bridge Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Stanley and Iva May will live in Zimbabwe, where he will start and develop churches, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1986 he has been pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Melbourne, Ark.

Born and reared in Memphis, Stanley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. May of that city.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary.

Born in Hollandale, Miss., Iva is the daughter of Joyce Gryner of Zachary, La., and Johnny J. Gryner of Mississippi.

She attended Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark.

The Mays have three children: Jennifer Ruth, Jonathan Owen, and Steven Jeffrey.

Warren and Ruth Harris, as missionary associates, will live in Peru, where they will be involved in English-language evangelism through home Bible studies and teaching missionary children.

For the past 20 years they have been teachers with the Battle Creek (Mich.) Public Schools. They are members of Lakeside Baptist Church in Battle Creek. Recently they were Foreign Mission Board special assignment auxiliary personnel volunteers in Peru.

Born in McComb, Miss., he is the son of the late Jim and Stella Harris. He grew up in Summit, and considers it his hometown and First Baptist Church there his home church.

He received the associate of arts degree from Southwest Mississippi Junior College; the bachelor of science degree from Southeastern Louisiana University; and the master

(Continued on page 5)



Stanley and Iva May



Warren and Ruth Harris

Baptist Memorial leases hospital in New Albany

MEMPHIS — Baptist Memorial Health Care Development Corporation (BMHCDC) has entered into an agreement with Union County General Hospital in New Albany, for the long term lease of that facility.

The hospital, will be called Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union County. It has been operated by BMHCDC under a management contract since March 1987.

Baptist Memorial Health Care

System consists of a network of hospitals located in Mississippi (Booneville, Southaven and now Union County), Tennessee (Covington, Ripley, Union City and Huntingdon) and Arkansas (Forrest City and Hardy).

The flagship hospital, Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, is the largest, privately-owned hospital in the country.

Southern Baptist Convention

June 13-15, 1989

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Theme: "Going, Weeping; Sowing, Reaping"

Scripture: Psalm 126:6

Tuesday Morning, June 13, 1989

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Greg Buchanan, harpist, Overland Park, Kan.
- 8:50 Call to Order
- 8:55 Congregational Singing, John McKay, Convention music director, Keller, Texas
- 8:55 Prayer, Rex Holt, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark.
- 9:00 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention, Lee Porter, registration secretary, design editor, Sunday School division, Sunday School Board, Nashville.
- 9:05 Committee on Order of Business, John B. Wright, chairman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.
- 9:10 Welcome, Mayor Ron Lurie, Las Vegas
- 9:15 Response, Gerald Harris, pastor, Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
- 9:20 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions and Tellers
- 9:25 Theme Interpretation, Gray Allison, president, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.
- 9:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 1), Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville
- 10:45 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:15 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper, music evangelist, Greenville, S.C.
- 11:20 Music, John McKay
- 11:25 President's Address, C. Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 12:00 Benediction, Spencer R. Rogers, pastor, Delaware Valley Baptist Church, Willingboro, N.J.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 13, 1989

- 1:00 Evangelistic Singers, Pat Roper presiding
- 1:35 Seminary Vocal Ensemble, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Phillip Landgrave, director
- 2:00 Congregational Singing, Bill Keith, minister of music, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.
- 2:05 Prayer, John Jenkins, pastor, Southcrest Baptist Church, Southaven, Miss.
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey
- 2:20 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report, Joe H. Reynolds, chairman, Houston
- 3:00 Congregational Singing, Bill Crawford, minister of music, Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- 3:05 Executive Committee Report (Part 2), Harold C. Bennett
- 4:00 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 4:05 Business — Committee on Committees Report, Introduction of Business and Resolutions, Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction, Larry Wynn, pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.

Tuesday Evening, June 13, 1989

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Squire Parsons, music evangelist, Asheville, N.C.
- 7:00 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:05 Prayer, John Yarbrough, pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ga.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 Theme Interpretation, Bobby Boyles, pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
- 7:40 Sunday School Board Report, Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville
- 8:15 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 8:20 Foreign Mission Board Report, R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
- 9:20 Benediction, Barry Barron, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga.

Wednesday Morning, June 14, 1989

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Old Time Gospel Hour Trio, Lynchburg, Va.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 8:55 Prayer, H. Gene Ray, pastor, Normandy Road Baptist Church, Royal Oak, Mich.
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Radio and Television Commission Report, Jimmy R. Allen, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:20 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 9:30 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Lewis A. Drummond, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 9:40 Stewardship Commission Report, A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
- 9:50 Southern Baptist Foundation Report, Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville.
- 10:00 Congregational Singing, John Lee, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas
- 10:05 Christian Life Commission Report, Richard Land, executive director, Nashville
- 10:15 Brotherhood Commission Report, James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
- 10:25 Baptist World Alliance Report, Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer, Washington, and Billy Kim, Seoul, Korea
- 10:40 Committee on Denominational Calendar Report, James A. Green, Jr., chairman, Jal, N.M.
- 10:50 Public Affairs Committee Report, Samuel Currin, chairman, Raleigh, N.C.
- 10:55 Congregational Singing, Sam Jones, minister of music, Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska

- 11:05 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:15 Business — Committee on Resolutions (First Report), Miscellaneous Business
- 11:50 Congregational Singing, Mickey Ewing, minister of worship, Northside Baptist Church, Victoria, Texas
- 11:55 Music, Chris Chapman, staff, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 12:00 Convention Sermon, Morris Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 12:30 Benediction, Phil Box, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening, June 14, 1989

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration, Peachtree Corners Baptist Church Choir, Norcross, Ga., Monte Nichols, director
- 6:55 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 7:00 Prayer, Bill Merrell, pastor, Country Estates Baptist Church, Midwest City, Okla.
- 7:05 Theme Interpretation, Bo Whittington, homemaker, Marietta, Ga.
- 7:25 Business — Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1990
- 7:30 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 7:35 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 7:45 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 7:50 Bold Mission Thrust Report, Harold C. Bennett
- 8:00 Congregational Singing, Monte Nichols
- 8:05 Home Mission Board Report, Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
- 9:05 Benediction, James W. Jones, evangelism director, Baptist State Convention of Michigan, Southfield, Mich.

Thursday Morning, June 15, 1989

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration, Alan Celoria Family, Jackson, Miss.
- 8:50 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 8:55 Prayer, Steve Taylor, pastor, Sandia Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 9:00 Business — Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:00 Education Commission Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 10:10 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report, William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 10:20 Annuity Board Report, Darold H. Morgan, president, Dallas
- 10:30 Congregational Singing, Jerry Ables, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Bossier City, La.
- 10:35 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 10:45 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 10:55 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Russell H. Dillard Jr., president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 11:05 Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., secretary-treasurer, Nashville.
- 11:15 Historical Commission Report, Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 11:25 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group, Larry L. Lewis
- 11:35 Recognition of Outgoing Officers
- 11:45 Congregational Singing, John McKay
- 11:50 Music, Jill Shirley, Shawnee, Okla., and David Phelps, Waco, Texas
- 12:00 Message, Charles Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
- 12:30 Benediction, Mark Brooks, pastor, Elmdale Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.

Thursday Afternoon, June 15, 1989

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration
- 2:25 Congregational Singing, Pat Roper
- 2:30 Prayer, Gary Smith, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Enid, Okla.
- 2:35 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:40 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report, James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington
- 2:50 Denominational Press Report, Alvin C. Shackelford, vice-president for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 3:00 Woman's Missionary Union Report, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 3:10 American Bible Society Report, John D. Erickson, general secretary, New York
- 3:20 Benediction, Joe Finrock, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gentry, Ark. Adjournment

Convention Officers:

- President — Jerry Vines, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- First Vice President — Darrell Robinson, Pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
- Second Vice President — Rudy Hernandez, Pastor, Metro Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas
- Recording Secretary — Martin Bradley, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Registration Secretary — Lee Porter, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
- Treasurer — Harold C. Bennett, President, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

Committee on Order of Business:

- Jerry Vines — President, Southern Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.
- John B. Wright, Chairman — Pastor, First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.
- Thomas D. Elliff — Pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- Dwight Reighard — Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.
- Reuel S. May Jr. — Layman, member of First Church, Jackson, Miss.
- Chris Tecmire — Pastor, First Baptist Church, Drumright, Okla.
- Ray Turner — Layman, Bedford, Va.
- John McKay — Convention Music Director, Keller, Texas

CHICAGO, Ill. (EP) — Talks between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church, U.S.A. recently passed an important milestone with the appointment of a team to draft a document outlining the final steps necessary for full communion between the two denominations.

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WANTED: CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TEACHERS. Asuncion Christian Academy in Asuncion, Paraguay (South America) needs church-active, missions-minded, evangelical Christian teachers for school year 1989-90 and beyond. Academy is PK-12 school which follows U.S.A. curriculum. All instructions are in English. School year runs from July 18 to June 25 with summer vacation during December, January, and part of February. Needed teachers for Primary school — grades 2, 4, 5, 6; secondary (grades 7-12) teachers of typing, social studies, literature, English, general science, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics (7 & 8), algebra, geometry, trigonometry, advanced math, business math, U.S. history, world history, psychology, sociology, geography, American government, Latin American studies, boys/girls' physical education/team coach. Qualifications to teach two or more of the foregoing subjects are desirable and certification, or qualification for the certification, is required. If interested in serving your Lord, travel/adventure, and learning/improving Spanish, write for information using U.S. mail to: Direct, Asuncion Christian Academy, American Embassy, Asuncion, APO Miami, FL 34036.

Civil rights champion dies of heart failure

William P. Davis, 85, who retired in 1971 as director of Work with National Baptists of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, died of heart failure Feb. 22 at his 441 Cambridge Lane home in Jackson.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at First Baptist Church, Jackson, where he was a member. Burial was in Lakewood Memorial Park.

Davis received many awards and honors for his service to humanity. At the funeral service, his pastor, Frank Pollard, said, "He loved God first. And just as he loved flowers, no matter what shape or color, he loved human beings, no matter what shape or color." Schuyler Batson, associate pastor, First Church, said, "Both the blacks and whites of Mississippi owe him a great deal."

In 1964, Davis organized, and was chairman of, the Committee of Concern, an interracial and interdenominational group which led in the rebuilding of 42 burned black churches in Mississippi, during a time of racial strife and civil rights struggle.

From 1973 until 1985, he was executive director of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference. Another executive director of that organization, Thomas E. Tiller, was quoted in the Clarion-Ledger as saying that Davis was "a very compassionate, genteel man who just absolutely had no enemy . . . The disadvantaged persons have lost a real friend."

Born at Blue Springs, Mississippi, Davis began preaching at age 13, was licensed at age 16, and was ordained at age 20. He was graduated from Clarke College, Mississippi College, and Southern Seminary. He did additional study at George Peabody Col-

lege and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and received a diploma from the Harvard University Chaplains' School. Mississippi Baptist Seminary awarded him an honorary doctorate.

During World War II, he spent three years in the U.S. Army as a chaplain in the South Pacific, where he received four battle stars.

He was pastor of churches in Mississippi, Maryland, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Those in Mississippi included Flora; First, Hollandale; Fannin; Wayside, Vicksburg; and Beulah Church, Brownsville. He had been a school principal and an assistant professor of French at Mississippi College. At one time he was associate to the executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. After retirement in 1971, he was named president emeritus of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, and continued to be academic dean and professor of systematic theology there. Also he held several interim pastorates after retirement.

He had served as director of Mississippi Action for Progress, a Head Start program which he helped to organize; as president of the trustees of Sophia Sutton Assembly; as Mississippi representative of the World Home Bible League; as a member of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and trustee of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville.

He was author of *Building a Church Budget*, published by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and *The Long Step*, an unpublished history of the work of Mississippi Baptists and National Baptists from 1942 to 1971.

He was the widower of Grace Sadler Davis.

Survivors include: wife, Virgie; son, William S. Davis of Rome, Ga.; daughter, Paula Goodson Priscock of Florence; sister, Elmira Dawson of Orlando, Fla.; and ten grandchildren.



Lottie Moon record

Robert E. Self, right, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, delivers a check for \$60,000 to Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer, of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which was that church's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts for 1988. The previous high for Lottie Moon gifts for the church has been \$40,000, Self said.

Scripture languages pass 1,900 mark

NEW YORK, NY (ABS) — "Scripture languages," those languages in which at least one book of the Bible has been published since Gutenberg printed the first Bible in Mainz over 500 years ago, increased in number to 1,907 in 1988, according to the American Bible Society.

Of these, 23 languages were recorded for the first time.

Complete Bibles are now being reported in seven additional languages, including Karo Batak, spoken by some 600,000 people who live on the shores of Lake Toba in Sumatra; ekeGusii, the language of more than six percent of the population of Kenya; and Cuzco Quechua, a dialect spoken by descendants of the Incas in Peru.

The other new languages with complete Bibles include Malawi chiTonga, otjiHerero, ruKwangali and Tigre, each of which is a language of Africa.

Of the 33 New Testaments which are being reported for the first time, in only one is having its first Scripture publication.

MC would ask for more money to support Clarke

(Continued from page 3)
would spend no money on Clarke. He did note that MC is providing a number of services for Clarke such as accounting, computer services, and general oversight that would take up to three quarters of a million dollars to replace should Clarke be made again a separate institution.

Incidentally, the merger agreement which apparently absolves MC of financial responsibility for Clarke also lines out that "... Clarke College shall be merged with and into Mississippi College and the separate existence of Clarke College shall cease except that the operation in Newton, Mississippi, shall be designated — for the first two years of college work — as Clarke College — a Division of Mississippi College."

Ex officio commission member Jim Futral, as MBC president, noted that he understood there will be a motion at the November convention to "demerge" Clarke "and instruct the Commission to reinstate them in the formula."

The formula is one developed by the Education Commission and approved by the MBC which distributes all monies for Christian higher education from the Cooperative Program. The commission is redistributing administrative funds which had gone to Clarke when it was a separate institution, but now to the other three existing institutions — MC, Blue Mountain, and Carey. Clarke still gets its share of money that goes to all the schools on a per student basis, but since Clarke only has just over 100 full

time equivalent students, the share is small.

Also, Clarke is slated to receive this year the line item of \$200,000 voted by the convention last November.

Nobles said that a 300 student enrollment by this fall is "unrealistic," and that "we won't get much enrollment this year but can plan and do promotion a year from this fall."

Asked if Clarke could stand on its own, Nobles said that "at this point it would be very difficult."

In their winter reports to the Education Commission, the three Baptist colleges had a total of 3,124 undergraduate and 922 graduate full time equivalent students. An FTE is derived from taking the total number of semester hours registered for and dividing by 12.

MC has 1,854 undergraduate and 675 graduate FTEs; Clarke has 102 FTEs; Blue Mountain has 311 FTEs; and Carey has 857 undergraduate and 247 graduate FTEs.

The Board of Ministerial Education reported that a total of 139 students are receiving ministerial aid on a monthly basis this school year. These students are receiving a total of \$13,160 in aid per month.

Board Chairman Johnny Walker reported that the number of students reporting plans for church related vocations (CRV) continues to drop. For Spring of 1989 the number is 245. For Fall of 1988 it was 258; Spring of 1988, 270; Fall 1987, 295; Spring 1987, 347; Fall 1986, 366; and Spring 1986, 314.

FMB appoints couples

(Continued from page 3)
of science degree from the University of Tennessee. He also attended Southwestern Seminary.

Born in Andersonville, Tenn., Mrs. Harris, the former Ruth Cobble, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Cobble of Knoxville. Her father is senior adult minister at Smithwood Baptist Church in Knoxville.

She received the bachelor of science degree from Carson-Newman College, and the master of arts degree from Western Michigan University. She also attended Southwestern seminary.

She has been president of the Woman's Missionary Union and a member of the executive board for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and a member of the WMU's executive board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

They have one grown daughter, Beth Anne Harris of Birmingham, Ala., who is a product promotional specialist with the WMU.

The Harris and Mays will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

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Education Commission will hold two forums

The Mississippi Baptist Education Commission will hold two forums for interested persons to meet privately with the Commission to express their views about William Carey College.

One session will be held in Hattiesburg on March 30 and 31. This will be held at The Cabot Lodge on Highway 49.

Another forum will be held in Jackson on April 6 and 7. This will be

held in the Baptist Building.

The Commission will meet with individuals only. Groups may select one person to meet with the Commission.

A form for requesting a time assignment is printed below.

Please mail the request to The Education Commission, Box 268, Eupora, MS 39744. The requests will be honored in the order in which they are received.

REQUEST FORM EDUCATION COMMISSION William Carey College Forum

Please assign a time for me to meet with the Education Commission

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Location Preference: (check one)

☐ Hattiesburg

March 30-31, 1989

Mail to: Education Commission

P. O. Box 268

Eupora, MS 39744

☐ Jackson

April 6-7, 1989



Korean singers in Mississippi

The Ambassador Singers and instrumentalists of Korea were presented during a chapel program at the Baptist Building in Jackson recently. The Korean musicians were on a two-month, six state tour in the United States that began early in January

and was to end early this month. They played and sang in Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, and California. The purpose was evangelism and sharing the gospel through music.

Executive Committee approves Religious Liberty Commission

(Continued from page 3)
package "in order to give them a total view" of the scope and work of the new entity.

"We are providing the total package in order not to ask messengers to vote without having all of the information," said Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee.

The recommendation is the latest action in the stormy relationship between the SBC and the BJCPA. In recent years, three special committees appointed by the Executive Committee have looked into the relationship between Southern Baptists and the BJCPA, a religious liberty watchdog composed of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada.

The BJCPA and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been under fire from convention conservatives who charge the BJCPA is unresponsive to the wishes of Southern Baptists and is unaccountable to the SBC because it has only a third of the trustees while providing the majority of the funding.

In recent years, the BJCPA has narrowly survived efforts to defund or withdraw the SBC from participation.

The action of the study committee that recommended creation of the new entity also is controversial, as

Dunn protested not being invited to participate in the deliberations that resulted in the recommendation.

Dunn said he was not asked to provide input until the study committee met Monday, Feb. 20, and called the process that resulted in the recommendation "shabby, unfair, unethical and improper."

After the Executive Committee approved the recommendation, Dunn told Baptist Press, "The question before us is not whether Southern Baptists support the witness of the Baptist Joint Committee, but how they will sustain it."

He referred to action by state conventions to provide direct support to the BJCPA if the relationship or funding is significantly altered. He also noted a number of churches, as well as the moderate Southern Baptist Alliance, have pledged to support the organization if the relationship with the SBC is changed.

The recommendation to create the new entity involved action by all three of the Executive Committee's three subcommittees, and featured nearly an hour and a half of debate before the final vote.

It had been initiated in the committee's business and finance subcommittee in September 1988. Subcommittee chairman David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., appointed the committee to develop an alternative to continuing in direct relationship with the BJC.

At the time, Hankins told Baptist Press the committee "was to prepare should the Southern Baptist Convention want to do something different (than continue its direct relationship with the BJC). He added at the February meeting that the recommendation is proposed as an alternative, and said the messengers "have two opportunities to vote it down."

During plenary session discussion, Executive Committee members questioned whether the body was acting properly in proposing an action.

Ann Smith, a homemaker from Greensboro, N.C., said: "It seems to me we have gotten the horse and the cart in the wrong places. It seems to me this Executive Committee should act in response to what the convention dictates and not anticipate it."

Sunnye Jones, a homemaker from

Baton Rouge, La., said: "I do not feel we can continue to ignore the mandate of the Southern Baptist Convention."

For four years in a row, the BJC has been supported by convention vote. We had better listen."

Member Ed Drake, an attorney from Dallas, agreed that "four times the issue has been submitted to the SBC," but pointed out the minority vote was from 48 to 49.4 percent. "Those people said they were dissatisfied with the way things were going... dissatisfied with the interpretation of the First Amendment."

Two efforts to modify the proposal were defeated.

James Morton, pastor of Trinity Church, Livermore, Calif., attempted to slow down the process, and to give messengers in Las Vegas an opportunity to express their opinion on whether they wanted to change the relationship. The effort lost 50-8.

Frank Ingraham, a Nashville attorney, proposed that the BJC relate to the SBC through the new commission, but that convention approved funding be channeled through the Executive Committee. That effort failed 40-19.

During discussion, R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said he believes creation of the new entity will be divisive and "is not a wise thing to do." He cited the cost to missions, the reduction in influence in Washington and the perception that we are not willing to cooperate, even with other Baptists."

As for the reduction of influence in the nation's capital, Parks commented: "We think Southern Baptists are pretty big stuff, but I don't think people in Washington share that impression."

He pointed out the SBC "is in a terrible budget crunch and everybody says the Cooperative Program (the SBC unified budget) is in terrible shape, plateaued at best and declining at worse." He then questioned the wisdom of establishing a new agency that will cost from \$500,000 to \$750,000 when the cost will be borne by missions agencies. "Half of it will come from foreign missions and 20 percent from home missions," he said.

"Performance-oriented" guides hold budget to \$134.8 million

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Operating under new "performance-oriented" guidelines, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee has proposed a 2.05 percent decrease for the convention's next budget.

The new guidelines link Cooperative Program budget goals to previous receipts. Consequently, the 1989-90 goal has a ceiling of \$134,787,543, the amount received during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1988.

The current Cooperative Program basic budget, set according to "goal-oriented" procedures, has a \$137.6 million target. Following the same budget-setting procedure, Southern Baptists have not met the overall Cooperative Program budget for most of this decade, have built a backlog of capital needs commitments, and have fallen below the pace of inflation.

The Executive Committee approved new budgeting procedures and the 1989-90 Cooperative Program goal during its Feb. 20-22 meeting in Nashville. Both actions are subject to approval by messengers to the convention's annual business session June 13-15 in Las Vegas, Nev.

The proposed Cooperative Program budgeting procedure has two parts:

First, it mandates that the goal for the Cooperative Program's "basic budget" — operating funds distributed to 18 convention organizations, which conduct evangelistic, missionary, educational, and church-starting ministries worldwide — be "no greater than the Cooperative Program receipts for the last fiscal year of record."

For example, the goal for the 1989-90 budget, which begins Oct. 1, could not be larger than receipts for the 1987-88 budget.

Second, it directs that from 1990-91 forward all Cooperative Program income received in excess of its basic budget be distributed equally between

its "program advance" and "capital needs" budgets.

To illustrate, suppose the Cooperative Program received \$2 million more than its basic budget goal. Of that excess, the program advance budget would distribute \$1 million to the 18 recipients according to the percentages by which they received the basic budget. The capital needs budget would distribute \$1 million among previously approved building projects for various SBC organizations.

The new budgeting procedure was initiated in January by the SBC Inter-Agency Council, composed of the executives of convention entities. The IAC proposed the measure as part of a comprehensive plan to ease the SBC's growing capital needs deficit. The new procedure was designed to enable Cooperative Program recipients to set their budgets more accurately and to allow the convention to pay off its capital needs commitments.

The Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee approved the new procedure during its meeting Jan. 18-20. The subcommittee ratified the final language of the proposal without debate Feb. 21, and the full Executive Committee approved the proposal without discussion later that day.

Said William Harrell, is chairman the program and budget subcommittee, "We will let the people of the Southern Baptist Convention set the goal by demonstrating good stewardship year to year. The more we give one year, the greater our budget can be later."

Although the process has not yet been approved by the convention, the Executive Committee's proposed 1989-90 budget abides by its restrictions.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

A son of Mississippi

(Continued from page 2)
been done according to the procedures now employed.

From all accounts, Russ Bush is a very fine man. If opposition to his election as academic vice-president at Southeastern Seminary is in any wise being made from a political standpoint, then we have reached an even sadder day in the way we are conducting our controversy. And the controversy belongs to all of us, not just to one side or the other. Most of

us are on neither side, but it is still our controversy.

It is not our place, of course, to speak to any aspect of a faculty concern at Southeastern Seminary or to try to influence any decision of its trustees. We do hope, however, that these concerns and decisions are and will be made on the basis of need and fact and not from political considerations.

Besides, in this case we have a particular interest. We have a son of Mississippi who is involved.

Ken Dean to lead meet on effective SS director

The "Effective Sunday School Director" Seminar is scheduled for March 31 through April 1, at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The meeting is being conducted by the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department and Ken Dean, growth consultant, General Officers Program Section of the Baptist Sunday School

March 31. It will conclude at noon on Saturday, April 1.

The purpose of this conference is to help local churches' Sunday School directors understand their role as a major planner and implementer of the church's outreach, evangelism, and Bible study programs. During the conference Sunday School directors will see resources to help them in administering a growing Sunday School.

The cost for this seminar is \$10. This includes lunch on Friday and materials which will be needed during the conference.

Registration may be made and the \$10 registration fee mailed to Keith Williams, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Dean

Board. The meeting will begin with registration and lunch on Friday,



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"Surely God sent you," the Mexican father cried

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me . . .

Last week I heard a story, so good I can't keep it to myself. Someone said Frank Pollard told it to his congregation at First Church, Jackson, where two of its main characters are members.

Jim and Margaret Webb live at 2020 Eastover Drive in Jackson. I first knew him when he was a young boy at Daniel Memorial Church. Three years ago, I saw him one cold, snowy day in Munich, Germany, where he and his family were visiting his parents, Allen and Leila Mae Webb. (His parents now live in Pascagoula.)

Last fall, after Hurricane Gilbert, Jim and a friend of his, Fernando Gomez, restaurant owner in Pearl, drove to San Fernando, Mexico, where the hurricane had hit and left a lot of homeless people. They took a vanload of clothes to give away.

At Punta Piedra, east of San Fernando, they found poverty everywhere. One family especially caught Jim's compassion, because they had so many strikes against them. This couple, the mother, age 28, and the father, making their meager living as a fisherman, had six children. When Jim first saw their home, a little hut on the beach, its walls were gone, with the storm. Only the support posts remained, and a part of the roof. The mother was cooking on an outdoor wood fire, beside the "house." In a fishnet hammock swung a tiny baby whose face was deformed with harelip and a cleft palate. Only a poncho hanging from the roof helped to shield the baby from the wind. This family, Jim and Fernando learned, had been Jehovah's Witnesses, but after the birth of the baby, many (Jehovah's Witnesses and others) had shunned them and left them in isolation because they said the devil had given them the deformed baby because of some sin of the parents. "All this," thought Jim, "is just too much for anyone to have to bear."

Back home, he could not forget the baby. He talked with the Baptist Hospital and with a plastic surgeon, Robert Smith. Both said they would give their services, for an operation on the baby. U.S. Immigration Service gave permission for him to bring the baby to the States for a brief time.

He meant to go back "some time in the future." But news that an ice storm would reach far into Mexico gave him visions of the shivering baby in her fishnet bed, no walls to keep out the cold. He thought, "If I don't go now, I'll never go. The baby will die." So he and Fernando set out again for Mexico, the first week of February, with another load of clothes.

At the border, he could not tell the customs officials the name of the family he was going to see, for he did not know it. To prove they did not plan to sell clothes to Mexicans along the way, he and Fernando had to give customs men a letter from a church or charitable institution, saying they were going on an emergency medical mission. Since they had not thought to obtain such a letter, Jim typed one from First Baptist Church and signed it. (After all, he is part of it.)

On arrival, they saw that the family had added rough walls and roofing to their house. The father threw up his arms in glad surprise to see them, for

he thought they had brought more supplies.

"We want to take your wife and baby back with us," Jim told him.

"God has surely sent you!" the astonished man cried.

The two Mississippians stayed only about 30 minutes. Alejandrina Portes — for that was her name — heated powdered milk for the baby, Heidy Lara, on the outdoor fire, and left the other children, ages 10, 8, 7, 5, and 3, with her husband.

A trip that would ordinarily have taken 33 hours took 40, Jim said. He drove all the way in icy conditions and got into a Jackson glistening with icicles. Doctors said he had been right: the baby probably would not have lived had he waited longer. At eight months, Heidy Lara weighed 8 pounds. She dehydrated, and had a chest cough and pneumonia. Erwyn Freeman, pediatrician, treated her, free. During eight or nine days of taking antibiotics at the Webbs' home, she received the constant care of her mother and Jim and Margaret. Then, on Valentine's Day, Dr. Smith did the surgery on her lip. At Baptist Hospital, Bill and Opal Ferrell interpreted, since Alejandrina speaks Spanish. Bill is pastor of the Spanish Baptist Church, Broadmoor, Jackson. Opal gave the young mother a Bible.

"Everyone at the Baptist Hospital was sympathetic and more than gracious," Jim said.

Though Alejandrina had never dreamed of visiting the United States, and had never cooked on an electric stove, much less a microwave, she gracefully fitted into the Webbs' household and lifestyle. In preference to the cans of baby food, she boiled black beans for long hours, and mashed them for her baby. "She and her husband are proud people," Jim said, "who would not beg for anything." She said to her benefactors: "My children eat almost every day. Sometimes I skip a meal so the children can eat. We are doing fine."

When Jim insisted that she list what she would most like to have, she said "a bed for the kids; a table; milk for the baby; medicine to give the children for diarrhea (with unchecked diarrhea, the children may die); aluminum foil, to help with cooking on the fire; an ice chest for fish; chairs; vitamins for the children."

Since her husband as a fisherman hires out to others, if he had a little motor or boat of his own, he could make more. "If he had a new net, a hammer, a saw, he would be in heaven!" said Jim. "Give him tools, and he can earn money."

As Heidy Lara is so small now, she must be bigger and stronger for a second operation to repair her cleft palate. Hence, Jim plans to bring her back for that later. The mother and baby were required to be back in Mexico by Feb. 25. Two doctors, Brooks Griffin and Charles Caskey, are donating medical and dental services which Alejandrina herself needed.

Anyone who would like to grant any of Alejandrina's wishes or give clothes for her family, may call Jim. His home phone is 601-982-5414. He said next time he goes to San Fernando he can take more goods.

Today is a cold day, but I get a warm spot in my heart when I think about this bit of Christianity in action.



Before the surgery for harelip: the baby, Heidy Lara, and her mother, Alejandrina Portes.



After the surgery.



Jim Webb holds Heidy Lara.

Off the Record

The old lady smiled at the young girl who had been left in charge of the cake shop.

"Don't you sometimes feel like eating one of those lovely cupcakes?" she asked.

The girl was shocked. "Of course not! That would be stealing. I only lick them."

Thursday, March 2, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Jim Webb, left, and Fernando Gomez arrive at Punta Piedra, Mexico, at the home of the Portes family, ready to bring Alejandrina and her baby back to Jackson. More walls have been added to the house since Jim saw it after Hurricane Gilbert. Alejandrina cooks on the fire in front of the house. The other children in the scene are hers.

Annuity Board chairman names search committee

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptist Annuity Board Chairman B.J. Martin has named a presidential search committee, describing it as balanced and "representative of the Southern Baptist Convention today."

The committee is composed of four laymen and three ministers from seven states.

Martin said he used three criteria in selecting the committee. "I have attempted to appoint a committee which would be balanced between laymen and ministers, geographically representative and representative of the Southern Baptist Convention today," he said.

George H. Balentine Jr. will be chairman. Balentine is president and treasurer of Precision Research and Development Inc. of Greenville, S.C. Other members are Robert Bass, president of Bass Construction Company, Richmond, Va.; Jack C. Carroll, retired pastor, Littleton, Colo.; Bobby L. Eklund, an associate evangelism director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; Bob R. Howard, general agent, State Mutual Companies, Independence, Mo.; Gerald H. Lord, pastor, First Baptist Church, Florence, Ala.; and William (Lonnie) A. Willis, general manager, Prudential Insurance Company, Little Rock, Ark.

Martin, retired vice president of Houston Baptist University, will be an

ex officio member of the committee.

Guidelines adopted by the trustees Jan. 31 were recommended by the Hay Management Consultants of Philadelphia. The guidelines state that the candidate should be an ordained Southern Baptist minister with a recognized name and lifestyle that conforms with the Southern Baptist value system. He should be a man of clear vision with outstanding communication and public presentation skills. He should have broad convention support and acceptance and be a respected and cooperative member of an SBC church, with a solid record of service.

He needs to have empathy with current and prospective Annuity Board plan members, be approachable and able to negotiate in conflict situations. Financial management experience or management potential is necessary, with exposure to insurance issues, investments, or annuities on an institutional basis.

The candidate should be able to distinguish between spiritual and financial activities and be capable of assuring the pursuit of the mission, charter and intent of the Annuity Board.

He should have satisfactory educational credentials and a professional image and spiritual conviction to assure continuing positive relations with large institutions and agencies.

Mississippi teens can apply to be pages at SBC

A Mississippi teenager has the opportunity to work as a page during the 1989 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, June 12-16. Nominations for this honor must be turned into the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department office no later than March 15.

According to Jim Didlake, Royal Ambassador consultant for the Brotherhood Department, pages must be from grades 10-12 and may have graduated from high school in June, 1989. Nominees must be active in their High School Baptist Young Men's pro-

gram and must have earned at least two Mission Challenge awards.

Letters of recommendation from their pastor and High School Baptist Young Men's advisor must accompany each application. For application forms, write the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Pages provide their own travel to and from the convention. Cost for room and board while at the convention is paid by the SBC Brotherhood Commission and the state Brotherhood office.



Powerline for teens

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Sadder but wiser

QUESTION:

I need your help desperately. I am 18 years old, unmarried, and if you haven't already guessed, I think I am pregnant. My boyfriend and the father of my child is also 18, in his senior year of high school. I have a full-time job in a factory but I will be forced to quit at four months. I want Roy to be able to graduate, but if we get married he will be thrown out of school. Also, how does a girl tell her parents such a thing?

ANSWER:

There are many qualifying conditions in a situation like yours. No one, therefore, can tell you just what to do. Here are some general guidelines which may help. The first is, don't do anything until you find out for sure whether you're pregnant.

If it's true, then arrive at some general plan with the boy himself. Consider marriage, for instance. It is a fairly safe rule that pregnancy is not sufficient grounds on which to build a marriage. Eighteen is seldom old enough or a financially secure enough time to be married.

Perhaps most important, you have got to share your problem with your parents. You will find the burden much more bearable when you get the support of others. Of course, it's going to hurt, but it may make you stronger.

Your parents can send you to live with relatives or arrange a maternity home. You can get lists of such homes through a pastor, community agency, your doctor, health department or by checking with hospitals. Finally, resolve the moral and spiritual problems it has created for you. This of course, will depend upon the kind of person you are. Do not hesitate to ask for and accept God's forgiveness. Use the experience for learning. It is a time to act with courage and faith.

Group ministers in Honduras for fifth straight year

A medical-dental-evangelism team for the fifth year has made a trip to the outlying mountainous areas around Tela, Honduras, for ministry and care of the people in this third world country. This team, sponsored by the Baptist Brotherhood of Pearl River County, began working with missionaries Stanley Stamps and Frances Crawford in previous years, and this year worked with Honduran layman, Naptaly Altamirano.

The January, 1989 team included 27 people from Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, and five Honduran nationals. Carl Myers of Poplarville coordinated the team with W. F. Stringer of Poplarville supervising the medical team; David Sneed of Eupora, the dental team; Frank Reese of Boyle, the optometry; and Joe Lovelady of New Orleans, evangelism. Other members of the team from the Poplarville area were: Bea Bond, Carolyn Geiger, Ann Stringer, and Sandra Wells. Other team members from Mississippi were: Michael Albert and Carolyn Hendrix from Pearl; Tony Finn,

Larry Martin, and Carol Taylor from Jackson; Mark Moore from Carthage, Anthony Presley, Michelle Presley, and Margaret Stucky from Florence; John Beavers from Carriere; Deborah Chandler from Goodman; Nell Shaw from Steens; Brenda Ledbetter from Lexington; Nester Torres from Waveland; and Mary Withauer from Picayune. During the week of Jan. 15-22 the physicians saw 3,111 medical patients with an average of three prescriptions each; the dentists saw 331 patients and extracted 807 teeth; and the optometrist examined 407 patients, fitting 380 pairs of recycled glasses. The evangelist recorded 844 commitments to Christ. The team passed out 1,350 Spanish New Testaments.

There is an urgent need for another team to serve on a banana plantation between San Pedro Sula and Tela, Honduras, where a flood from the devastating hurricane last summer with torrential downpours left most people in this area homeless. There are no health professionals in this area.

BMC Chorale to hold concert

The Blue Mountain College Chorale will hold a concert tonight, March 2, at 8 p.m. at Lowrey Memorial Church at Blue Mountain. The concert will include works by Hassler, Byrd, Palestrina, Nystedt, Rutter, and Dawson. The 40-voice group will be

touring this Spring in Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. For details, contact the chorale's director, David Gilmore, assistant professor of music, at 685-4771. Terry McRoberts, associate professor of music, is accompanist.



Sidney and Margret Pitts

Couple appointed as MSC volunteers

Sidney and Margret Pitts have recently been appointed as Mission Service Corps volunteers to serve as Area Coordinators for Area 5. The following associations are in this area: Hinds-Madison, Sharkey-Issaquena, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo. They are available to present the Volunteers in Missions opportunities to associational meetings, churches and church organizations. You may contact them at Route 3, Box 112, Terry, MS 39170, or phone 878-6607.

Just for the Record

East Fork Church, Mississippi Association, will have pastor's appreciation day, March 5, in celebration of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Wicker's 10th anniversary. A special morning service will be followed by dinner at the church at noon.

For those who missed the MBC Evangelism Conference because of the bad weather, cassette tapes of the program are available at \$4 each from Wayne Long Taping Service, 445 Bruin Ave., Pearl, MS 39208.

Oak Vale Church, Lawrence County, is having a Lay Renewal weekend, March 3-5. Friday meeting begins with a meal at 6:30 p.m. The nursery will provide care for children during all meetings. Eddie H. Myers is pastor.

Guy Hovis will present a music concert at East End Church, Columbus, March 12; during regular worship hour at 7 p.m.

Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl, will host the contemporary Christian music group, Eternity, in a concert March 12 at 7 p.m. For more information contact Martha Evans at 939-3616.

First, Tehula, ordained two men, Larry Killebrew and Ralph Tutterow, Jr., as deacons, Feb. 12. Ladell Blanton, pastor, delivered the ordination message.

Revival dates

Alta Woods, Jackson: March 5-10; James Richardson, pastor, First, Madison, evangelist; Bill Bacon, minister of music, First, Clinton, and his wife, Martha, musicians; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; weekday breakfast service, Mon.-Fri., 6:30-7:30 in the East Room; evening services, 7 p.m.; Frank H. Thomas, pastor; Bob Jones, minister of music.

Genevox nominated for Dove

NASHVILLE (BP) — "In His Presence: The Risen King," a Christian musical album produced by the Genevox Music Group of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been nominated as musical album of the year in the Gospel Music Association's 20th Annual Dove Awards to be announced April 13.

The songs were written by Dick and

Melodie Tunney, GMA songwriters of the year for 1987. They include "In His Presence," "Come Before Him," "Calvary's Love," "Stand Up and Bless the Lord," "Bless the Lord, My Soul," "Create in Me," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," "Come, Worship the King," "Seekers of Your Heart" and "In Majesty He Will Come."

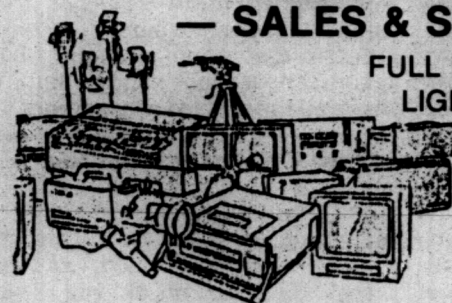
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Changes effective February 5, 1989

CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5:30	The Joy of Music/ Diane Bush Christopher Cleavep	Sergeant Preston of the Yukon The Cisco Kid	Adventures of the Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Carsacelendas Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	The Bible and Life
6:30	This is the Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Devery and Gethi Color Me a Rainbow
7:30	Profiles Changed Lives	30 Wall Street Sunshine Factory	Christian Lifestyle Mapping Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Campus Review Sunshine Factory	Insight Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
8:30	ACTS Methodist Hour	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9:30	Come Alive Nelson Price	One in the Spirit Sergeant Preston of the Yukon	Catch the Spirit Richard Jackson	Judy's Kitchen Come Alive Nelson Price	30 Good Minutes Carsacelendas	ACTS Presbyterian Hour	Cisco Kid Popcorn Theatre
10:30	Catch the Spirit Praise Song	The Cisco Kid Seasons 95	What's Happening	What's Happening	Vegetable Soup	Christian Lifestyle Mapping What's Happening	...
11:30	ACTS Presbyterian Hour	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Hollywood Revue	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Outdoor Magazine
12:30	The Baptist Hour	30 Wall Street Encore Theatre	U.C. Video News Encore Theatre	Word of Life Encore Theatre	Campus Review Encore Theatre	...	The Super Handman Plant Groom
1:30	Sunday Selection	The Bible and Life The Good News
2:30	Missions 95	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Devery and Gethi Color Me a Rainbow
3:30	Love Worth Finding Adrian Rogers	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
4:30	The Joy of Music/ Diane Bush One in the Spirit	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
5:30	First United Methodist Church, Houston This is the Life	Adventures of the Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Carsacelendas Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	Sergeant Preston of the Yukon The Cisco Kid	Popcorn Theatre
6:30	Insight ACTS Methodist Hour	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Country Crossroads
7:30	Praise Song	Search	Word of Life	Campus Review	Created to Be One	Christian Lifestyle Mapping	Sing Out America
8:30	The Baptist Hour Evening Worship	The Joy of Music/ Changed Lives	Catch the Spirit 30 Good Minutes	Profiles First United Methodist Church, Houston	Invitation to Life	30 Wall Street	The Bible and Life The Good News
9:30	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Praise Song Gospel Music Tapes
10:30	The Joy of Music/ Diane Bush Jack Van Winkle	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Bobby Jones Gospel Lightmusic
11:30	This is the Life Sunday Selection	Adventures of the Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Carsacelendas Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	Lightmusic The Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid Popcorn Theatre
12:30	Missions 95	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Hollywood Revue
1:30	ACTS Methodist Hour	Search	Word of Life	Campus Review	Created to Be One	Christian Lifestyle Mapping	...
2:30	Praise Song	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	...
3:30	Sunday Selection	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	...
4:30	Sing Out America

* AFFILIATES, PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF LATEST CHANGES.

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Jackson	Capitol Cable	Ch 14
Meridian	Comcast Cable	Ch 31
Hattiesburg	U.A. Cable	Ch 6
Laurel	Laurel Community Cable	Ch 18

For information contact:



Farrell Blankenship
Miss. Baptist Conv. Bd.
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Blue Mountain students minister in N.M. pueblos

By Tracy Simmons
Blue Mountain College BSU Director

Eleven Blue Mountain College students and the Baptist Student Union director gave a gift of themselves this past Christmas as they joined with missionaries Ben and Shirley Yelvington in working with Pueblo Indians in Santa Clara, New Mexico. The Yelvingtons have worked for 27 years in seven of the 19 area pueblos. Pueblo is a word of Spanish origin and means "dwelling" or "house". It is used to both describe the type Indian and as another name for the reservation.

The work is often slow and difficult for the Yelvingtons. Many Indians are hostile to the gospel. Each pueblo is ruled by its own governor who decides the laws for his pueblo. The Constitution of the United States does not apply to the Indians on reservations. Many of the governors enforce the Catholic and pagan Indian religions. As a result, it is difficult for an Indian

to accept Christ. When an Indian accepts Christ he faces persecution from his family and tribal members.

The task for the Blue Mountain students included leading worship in six of the pueblos, wrapping and distributing Christmas gifts collected from churches all over the United States for the Indians, cooking, and cleaning. The worship services incorporated puppets, clowns, drama, music, and preaching. A highlight of the week was being invited to the Pojaque Pueblo to the new Indian governor's home for an Indian feast. He is a Christian as a result of the Yelvingtons' ministry.

Students participating in the trip were Amy Moore, Donna Smith, Annette Smith, Reuban Raquel, Keith Dendy, Evy Ferguson, Mari Conklin, Heather Watson, Tina Scarbough, Melissa West, and Rusty Sappington.

Barnes, Goff will lead MasterLife workshop at Oxford

Joe Barnes of Claremore, Okla., a retired pastor and an experienced MasterLife leader will be a co-leader for the MasterLife workshop to be conducted at First Church, Oxford, the week of March 27.

Larry Goff of Edon Church, Stringer, will co-lead with Barnes. Goff is also an experienced MasterLife leader and has been used extensively in Mississippi, as well as in other states.

Aubry Martin of Tutwiler and John Sharp of Sebastopol have been enlisted as facilitators for this workshop.

The workshop is open to pastors and

laymen or women who are interested in being introduced to MasterLife and experiencing portions of the MasterLife material equipping them to become a MasterLife leader. Those who complete this week-long workshop will become certified MasterLife leaders and may order the material and conduct a group — 26 weeks of 2 hours each — in their church. The workshop begins at 6:45 on Monday and concludes at noon on Friday.

Registration for the workshop can be done by calling or writing Church Training Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205.

Staff changes

John Mark Hamilton has accepted a call as minister of music and youth at Calvary Church, Greenwood, effective Feb. 12. He moved to Calvary from Wesson Church, Wesson.



Hamilton

He is a graduate of Copiah Lincoln Junior College. He also received a bachelor and master's degree from Mississippi College and a master of religious education from New Orleans Seminary.

Billy Holyfield has been called to Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, as minister of single adults. Holyfield has served as associate pastor at First Church, Columbia, while attending New Orleans Seminary. He has also served as pastor of Pine Burr Church in Marion County, Russell Bush, Jr. is pastor.



Holyfield

Glen W. Smith has accepted the pastorate of Williamsburg Church, Collins, effective Feb. 26. He is the former pastor of Beulah Church in Simpson County.

E. C. Tucker has resigned New Pleasantdale Church in Philadelphia, Neshoba County. He is available for supply preaching, revivals, and pastorates, and can be reached at Rt. 4, Box 327, Forest, MS 39074 or phone 601-625-7719.

David Prevost has accepted the call to serve as minister of music at Calvary Church, Tupelo, effective Feb. 12. He is moving from First Church, Pontotoc, where he served for four years.

Prevost received degrees from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has also served churches in Gadsden, Ala. and Canton.

Faith Memorial Church, Poplarville, has called Robert J. Clark as interim pastor. Clark, from St. Petersburg, Fla., graduated from the University of South Florida with a master's degree in education, administration, and supervision. He worked in the Panola County School System 17 years. He is now attending New Orleans Seminary in the master of divinity program.



Clark

James Warren has resigned Zama Church, Attala County. He served the church as pastor for four years.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- March 5-12 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU Emphasis)
- March 9-10 Church Music Conference; FBC, Hattiesburg; 10 a.m., 9th-12:30 p.m., 10th (CM)
- March 11 YouthPlus Sunday School Workshop; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (SS)

Computer users to meet in Dallas

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association will be March 22-23 in Dallas, Texas. It is open to all computer users throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The annual meeting schedule has been adapted to mesh with meetings of the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference which will be held at the same time. Joint sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Among program topics to be presented by computer company representatives are: "Desktop Approach to Office Automation," "Local Area Networking," "Audit Concerns," "Communications Solutions for Church Management" and "What Do I Look for in a FAX Machine?"

Detailed program information can be obtained from: Patricia Moore, Woman's Missionary Union, P. O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

Lexington man teaches in Zambia

Bill Barrett of Lexington and Ken Eells, pastor of First Church, Mineola, Tex., left this month for Zambia to teach in a stewardship emphasis program. This year, 1989, is the Year of the Cooperative Program in the Baptist Convention of Zambia.

Both men are volunteering through the Foreign Mission Board. Bill is a member of First Church, Lexington, Miss.

January gifts total \$1,381,445

January gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches to the Cooperative Program totaled \$1,381,445, according to an announcement from Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which channels the funds to the proper recipients.

Monthly budget requirements, as set by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention last November, would be \$1,675,295, in order to receive the full 1989 budget of \$20,103,541. January giving is \$293,850, or 17.54 percent, below that pro rata amount January 1988 giving was \$1,465,715.

Homecomings

Goodyear, Picayune: March 12; dedication service will be held for the renovation of the sanctuary that is complete in the first stage of work; Arlis F. Grice, pastor.

Off the Record

The doctor was pleased with his patient's progress, "You're coughing easily this morning," he said.

Impatient patient: "Well, I certainly ought to be. I've been practicing all night."

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March 28-29	Directors of Missions
April 14-17	DiscipleYouth I
April 17-21	Personal and Career Development Week
April 24-26	Preaching in the Context of Worship
May 22-26	MasterLife and MasterBuilder
August 7-8	Childhood Education (New Orleans)
August 10-11	Childhood Education (Bossier City)

For more information on these and other upcoming conferences contact:
Dr. Paul E. Robertson, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,
3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 (Phone: 504-282-4435)

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Unity in diversity: many parts, one body

By Greg Martin
1 Corinthians 12:14-17

The Bible uses many metaphors to describe the church. The Apostle John referred to God's people as branches in the 15th chapter of his gospel. In Revelation, he portrayed our relationship with Christ as a marriage. Paul used the analogy of a building in 1 Corinthians 3. His favorite metaphor was that of a body. He mentioned it in several of his epistles. Our text is his most elaborate treatment concerning the church functioning as a body.



Martin

The analogy teaches us at least two things. First, it teaches that Christ is the source of and authority for the church. He is the head of the body (Ephesians 5:23). This metaphor also teaches that there is a great need for unity in the midst of our diversity. It is the second aspect that our present text emphasizes.

The 14th verse reminds us that all kinds of people make up the church. Just as the body is made up of several parts, so the church con-

LIFE AND WORK

sists of people with different gifts and talents. As the body's identity is not dependent on one organ or limb functioning by itself, neither is the church dependent on one particular gift, talent, or calling. It takes a combination of many for the human body and the divine church to function as God intends.

The possibility of uncooperation is seen in verses 15-16. The reason for this lack of unity is rooted in jealousy. Paul imagines a foot wanting to declare independence from the body because it is not the hand, or an ear rebelling from the body because it is not an eye. Such scenarios are ridiculous. A foot may be jealous of a hand because it wears rings and is washed a couple of times a day, but that is no reason to desire amputation. An ear may be envious that people don't stare at it or compliment it on its color as they do an eye, but that, too, is no reason to declare independence from the total body. The foot and ear are parts vital to the total body. Then need to cooperate with the rest of the body.

The necessity of cooperation can be found in

verses 17, 19. If the whole body were an eye, there would be no smelling, hearing, tasting, or feeling. There would only be seeing. A body needs all its senses, not just one. For this reason cooperation is important. A church will not be a strong, Christ-centered one if it revolves around one or two persons or families. When this happens, a church limits itself. It begins to function as a sickly body rather than a spiritually healthy one.

Christian people need to realize everyone in the church is important. Verse 18 teaches that God has placed each gifted and talented person in his body just as he willed. That truth can bring great security, freedom, and humility to all who are in his church. Since the Lord has placed each body part where it pleased him, we should accept each person. In contrast, it takes an arrogant person to say, "I don't need you." That possibility is seen in verses 21-22. Arrogance is a second reason why the church body is sometimes weak and sickly.

Verses 22-24 remind us that the lesser body parts are very vital to the total body's health. The lungs are such body parts. We never brush, decorate, or wash them but without them the body would be a lifeless corpse. So it is in the

church. We may not pay much attention to the ladies' prayer group, or children's workers, but where would the church be without these laborers? One way to achieve unity in the church is to express appreciation to those unnoticed workers in the Lord's vineyard.

This expression of appreciation should flow from a genuine concern (verse 25). As an individual body part, we should be concerned for the health of the whole body. Paul mentioned this idea of concern in Philippians 2:3-4 when he said, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." The unity of the body of Christ, the church, is clearly manifested when all its members share the joys and sorrows of life together (verses 26-27). Are you cooperating in the body of your local church? Do you allow jealousy or arrogance to keep you from concern for the other body parts? If so, then the entire body will be affected. That is a responsibility none of us should desire.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road, Long Beach.

An appeal for acceptance as a brother in Christ

By Gary Berry
Philemon, verses 4-20

Some of them spoke a language I did not understand and followed customs which were also foreign to me. They had few of the conveniences many in our society are accustomed to enjoying. Their meals, though adequate, were very simple.



Berry

That mission trip was one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. Without ever having seen me, those brothers and sisters in Christ received me into their fellowship and their homes for a week. The experience provided another glimpse of what life in the family of God ought to be. Worshipping with them in their little church was like being drawn by a magnet into the presence

UNIFORM

of Jesus.

The text of Paul's letter to Philemon provides an appeal for the acceptance of Onesimus as a brother in Christ.

Onesimus was in slave who had run away from Philemon, his master. Onesimus had come into contact with Paul. The apostle had led him to receive Christ Jesus as Lord. Apparently, Onesimus had continued to stay nearby after his conversion and minister to Paul, who was imprisoned.

Paul persuaded Onesimus to return to his former master's house. That opportunity came when Paul sent a letter to the church at Colossae by Tychicus (Colossians 4:7-8). Apparently at the same time, Paul wrote a letter to Philemon and sent Onesimus along with the letter. The purpose of the letter was to request

Philemon to forgive Onesimus and receive him into the household of faith as a Christian brother rather than as a slave.

He made his request as an appeal to Philemon rather than as a command. He could certainly have written a letter reminding Philemon of his own shortcomings and failures. He could have attempted to bully him into doing what was right. That would have been unbecoming to the Lord. Instead, he appealed on the basis of the grace of Christ to receive fully one who had been a slave but was now a brother in Christ.

This was no small request. Slaves belonging to the Greeks and Romans were not considered as persons but as things. They were bought, bred, and sold like cattle. One is reminded of the days of slavery in our own nation when men, women, and children were considered as animals, not possessing a soul.

When will the body of Christ ever be free

enough in the love of Christ to receive one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord? Some cannot receive another one in Christ because they are of a different age group; others find difficulty accepting those who are single, or married, or poor. The clear and powerful truth presented in this brief letter is that we should be able to accept every born-again Christian as a brother or sister in Christ, regardless of social, economic, ethnic, or cultural differences.

The appeal of those people in that little mission church was their gracious and generous spirit toward me. I was a stranger, but I was a brother in Christ.

Have you ever been received as a brother or sister into the body of Christ? If you have, then you will understand how to extend that same grace to those who are genuinely repentant and born into the family of God.

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.

The door is opened to the Gentiles

By Bert Breland
Acts 9:32 to 10:48

There are those times when a sermon or a Sunday School lesson seems to have been directed right to our hearts or our particular need, as if the writer had us in mind when he was working.



Breland

This lesson of Peter and Cornelius has great relevance for us today. It will challenge us to look at people the way God looks at them. It will cause us to examine our own prejudices and how they prevent us from doing God's will.

The healing stories at the conclusion of chapter 9 are used to reintroduce Simon Peter. These acts of healing lead to some being converted, but nothing unusual or disturbing to the Church comes as a result of these healings. The one interesting note at the end of the ninth chapter is Luke's somewhat casual reference to Peter's staying with Simon the tanner. Perhaps this reference isn't as casual as it seems. A tanner

BIBLE BOOK

would have been considered ritually unclean and a social outcast because of his work with dead animals. Possibly, Peter's acceptance of a man like Simon was mentioned to serve as a contrast with his later reluctance to accept a man like Cornelius.

Cornelius is introduced to us in chapter 10 as a Roman centurion who was devoted to God, a good family man, a tither, and deeply spiritual because he prayed constantly. (He sounds like the kind of person that any church would love to have on its membership roll.) One day in a vision he was told to send men to bring Simon Peter to him. Cornelius apparently did not know who Simon Peter was and couldn't possibly have guessed the great struggle that this Simon Peter would have in responding to this word from God.

Meanwhile, Peter was on the rooftop praying when the Lord spoke to him in a vision. In this vision, a large sheet was set before him that was full of living things that Peter would consider unclean and unfit for a Jew to eat. A voice

from heaven commanded him to kill and eat. Peter protested, refusing to eat anything that was common. The Lord responded by saying, "What God has cleansed, you must not call common" (RSV). Not once but three times Peter went through this vision and stubbornly responded the same way each time.

Luke tells us that Peter was perplexed by this vision. It was at that time that the messengers from Cornelius arrived. While Peter received these men graciously and consented to go with them to meet Cornelius, there seemed to be a reluctance on his part to visit with this centurion. In fact, when Peter met Cornelius he remarked, "you know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or visit any one of another nation" (RSV). Simon Peter was saying that if God hadn't made him, he wouldn't have come. Was his reluctance because Cornelius was evil and ungodly? Quite the contrary. Here was a godly man that Peter didn't want to be associated with simply because he was of a different race. The story of Peter and Cornelius is placed here in the Book of Acts to depict another barrier that the church must hurdle if

the gospel is to be preached unhinderedly.

One of the startling truths in this passage is that our deep-rooted prejudices will even make us shake our fist in the face of God and tell him, "No!" Simon Peter tried to say "no" to God, but God wasn't taking "no" for an answer. He made Peter go and meet these people of a different race. Peter, as a result, learned a marvelous unfettering truth: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him" (RSV). Peter then preached the Good News to Cornelius and his household. They were saved and gave irrefutable testimony to that experience, and even Peter was amazed. Peter then challenged those present by asking if any one could forbid these new converts being accepted after what they had all just witnessed, and none could.

Simon Peter was learning what has been a difficult lesson for many to learn: that if we could open our hearts and our gospel to all people, God would richly bless our efforts.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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"The Naturals" sing for Delta reception

"The Naturals" of Mississippi College sang during a reception at Greenville Country Club on Jan. 26. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vickery and the Mississippi College Admissions Office were hosts for the reception, given in honor of prospective students and parents from the Delta area. In attendance were Lewis

Nobles, Van Quick, Rory Lee, Tom Prather, and Mrs. Jennifer Trussell, all from Mississippi College and approximately 81 parents and students. In the picture above, Mr. Vickery celebrates his birthday while "The Naturals" sing "Happy Birthday."

Annuity Board dedicates building

DALLAS (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board dedicated a new headquarters facility and heard reports of increases in Southern Baptist retirement funds and losses in medical insurance plans during their Jan. 30-31 meeting in Dallas.

A gathering in the new leased headquarters building included tours of the seven-floor structure and a dedication dinner in its conference center. The building is owned by Equitable Real Estate.

The staff will move from the board's 511 North Akard building during the weekend of Feb. 10.

The Annuity Board has a 20-year lease on most of the new office space. Rent will be paid from Annuity Board earnings on invested assets. No Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds are used directly in Annuity Board operations.

Trustees re-elected B.J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, as chairman.

John Robert Jones of Dallas, who came to the board Jan. 17 as director of investments, was elected a vice president. He worked seven years with the bank now called NCNB Texas. Since September 1987, he had been head of the bank's trust employee benefit department, which

managed \$3.8 billion in assets and generated fee income of \$14 million.

During his formal report to the trustees, board President Darold H. Morgan noted growth in assets and earnings of retirement funds and losses in the medical insurance funds.

Growth in retirement funds was attributed to the successful launch of expanded features in the Church Annuity Plan, which became effective Jan. 1, 1988.

"The Church Annuity Plan has been well received throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, and I believe it may be the single-most important development in our history in the area of church retirement plans," Morgan told trustees.

By Dec. 31, 1988, 34,057 members and 20,310 churches were participating in the plan, Morgan said. Contributions to the plan totaled \$74.5 million, almost \$26.2 million more than was contributed in 1987. Total retirement and relief contributions reached \$155.5 million at year end, an increase of 17.6 percent over 1987.

Harold D. Richardson, executive vice president and treasurer, reported total assets by year end reached \$2.38 billion, an increase of almost \$270 million, the largest gain ever in a 12-month period.

The board distributed almost \$71.35 million in retirement and relief benefits in 1988, nearly 28 percent more than in 1987. Most of the money was paid to 18,873 annuitants. More than \$640,000 was distributed to needy annuitants and widows through relief programs funded by the Cooperative Program.

An additional \$238,000 in supplemental assistance was distributed through the board's "Adopt An Annuitant" program. At year end, 443 people were receiving monthly checks through this relief effort, funded by the board's endowment department.

The Cooperative Program also provided \$400,000, which was rechanneled to state Baptist conventions for use in promoting annuity and insurance programs.

Investment income of the board totaled \$228 million, more than double the \$112 million of 1987, when earnings were affected by the October stock market crash.

The most difficult challenge in 1988 was the cost explosion in the medical insurance plans, a problem which is universal in this field, Morgan said. Despite rate increases in 1988, the imbalance between premiums and claims has eroded reserves, he told the trustees.

Working elderly will pay higher premiums

DALLAS (BP) — Medicare rules now require people 65 and older employed by churches or related organizations to receive primary medical coverage through a private carrier, such as the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's Church Comprehensive Medical Insurance Plan, board trustees learned during their Jan. 30-31 meeting in Dallas.

Medicare will provide secondary coverage.

"This is another way the federal government is shifting costs from the drain on Medicare funds to the private sector," said board President Darold H. Morgan.

Of 2,107 people participating in the board's church Medicare supplement

insurance, an undetermined number will be affected by these changes and may see premium increases effective April 1, Morgan said.

Up to 100 other participants with dependents age 65 or older also will be impacted by the change in Medicare benefit rules, he added. The board now is notifying individuals who could be affected by these changes, he said.

Rate increases range from 30 percent to 300 percent per month, he reported. New rates will be reflected on the statements mailed in March for April's coverage.

In the past, Medicare was the primary medical coverage for people 65 and older, Morgan noted. Medicare

coverage resulted in a major reduction in monthly insurance premiums for people who turned 65, whether they were employed or retired.

Under the new federal rules, if a person is working 20 or more hours per week for a Southern Baptist church or related organization, Medicare considers that person as actively employed and Medicare becomes secondary insurance coverage for all family members.

Primary insurance pays for the majority of medical expense claims when a person is covered under two programs, Morgan explained, noting secondary coverage is considered "supplemental," and generally pays far less than primary coverage.

Devotional

Be positive

By Greg Potts
Galatians 6:9-10

Some people are simply hard to please. I heard about a mother who gave her son two ties for Christmas. He didn't even like ties! In fact, he hated them! Yet, every time he saw her she would ask, "Don't you like the ties?" One day, he decided he was going to make his mom happy at least once. He selected one of the ties and went to meet her. As soon as she saw him she said, "What's the matter? Don't you like the other tie?"

Some people are pessimistic by nature. Yet, Paul encourages us to be positive.

I. The persistence of affirmation (9). Paul says, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary." He is referring to the principle of reaping and sowing. Paul says "in due time." In other words, in God's time. We need to keep a smile on our faces and be about the business of affirming others.

II. The perimeters of affirmation (10). Paul says we should "do good to all men." Our Lord is a great example of this. Jesus called Matthew, the tax-collector, as a disciple and ate with him at his home. Jesus forgave the adulterous woman of her sin. We need to "do good to all men," not just to those like us or those we like. But Paul also says "while we have the opportunity." We need to practice the art of "giving someone their roses while they are living." Why is it we are afraid or hesitant to "pat someone on the back for a job well done"? Why is it we are slow to tell our children, our spouses, our loved ones, "I love you"? We need to affirm all people while we have opportunity.

III. The particulars of affirmation (10). Paul closes by saying "especially to those who are of the household of faith." How important this is! Christians can be the most unforgiving people on earth. Instead of shooting our wounded, we need to affirm our brothers and sisters in Christ and stop talking about them.

We live in a negative world. Our news is filled with crime, violence, and hatred. As Christians, let us affirm all people, but particularly our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Potts is pastor, Providence Church near Meadville.



Potts



First, Louise, gets disaster relief check

On Jan. 17, 1989, First Church, Louise, burned. "The church building was a total loss, but the members have the hope of Christ in them and have bravely decided to rebuild," states the pastor, Maynard R. Hill. On Feb. 12, the Mississippi Baptist Convention presented the church a disaster relief check for \$2,500. "Again we see our cooperative dollars being used to help our brothers and sisters as we strive to spread God's love in our state. The men and women of First Church, Louise, extend a warm heart felt thank you," said Hill.

Jerald Welch, Humphreys County director of missions, left, presents to Hill a check for \$2,500 from Mississippi Baptists' Disaster Relief Fund. (Photo by Mission Sandlin)

Booksellers endorse Books By Wire

Arlington, TX — The Christian Booksellers Association has officially endorsed Books By Wire, the new gift-book service offering participating Christian booksellers the opportunity to significantly increase sales, reach new customers and extend the ministry of their stores.

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